



DATE: November 12, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO UPDATE VARICELLA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Background and Summary:

In 2008, the Washington State Board of Health approved the Department of Health's phased-in varicella implementation plan in order to be in compliance with WAC 246-105-090 (2), and with the then new Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation of two doses of varicella rather than one. The plan phased out the one dose varicella requirement to two doses, and projected a completion date of school year 2020-2021 for all grades. It also phased out acceptance of parental documentation of prior disease as proof of immunity in accordance with ACIP recommendations.

The Department of Health proposes to shorten the timeline for full implementation of the two dose requirement from twelve years to eight years ending in the 2016-2017 school year. This would bring the varicella rule requirements fully in synch with ACIP recommendations four years earlier than first projected. National Immunization Survey 2013 results indicate that Washington has narrowed the gap with the national average in the percentage of teenagers receiving two doses of varicella or having a history of disease. About 82 percent of Washington teens reported receiving two doses of varicella or a history of disease, compared to a national average of 84 percent. This is important because it shows that most teenagers are now vaccinated according to the current ACIP varicella recommendation; which wasn't the case when the implementation plan was initially approved.

I have invited Michele Roberts, Director of the Office of Immunization and Child Profile, to give us an update of the proposed revisions to the Department's varicella implementation plan.

Recommended Board Actions:

***Motion:** The Board approves Department of Health's modified 2014 varicella plan.*

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff